

REMARKS

Claims 73-79, 83-88, 92-105, 109-114 and 118-124 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 92 and 118 are cancelled, no claims are amended and no new claims are added.

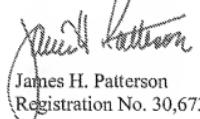
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 92 and 118 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,965,193 to Ning et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,222,774 to Boutin et al. Applicants have cancelled claims 92 and 118 and respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



James H. Patterson
Registration No. 30,673

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-5741